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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference YL03011PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/KR2003/001744	International filing date (day/month/year) 28 AUGUST 2003 (28.08.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 27 SEPTEMBER 2002 (27.09.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC7 C05F 11/00		
Applicant CHUN, Sukyoung		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.
- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).
- These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
- I ☒ Basis of the report
 - II ☐ Priority
 - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
 - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 04 DECEMBER 2003 (04.12.2003)	Date of completion of this report 13 JANUARY 2005 (13.01.2005)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/KR  Korean Intellectual Property Office 920 Dunsan-dong, Seo-gu, Daejeon 302-701, Republic of Korea Facsimile No. 82-42-472-7140	Authorized officer BYUN, Sang Hyun Telephone No. 82-42-481-5566 

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International application No.

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I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☒ the international application as originally filed
- ☐ the description:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the claims:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the drawings:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language English which is

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☒ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as "originally filed." and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item I and annexed to this report.

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1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-10	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	10	YES
	Claims	1-9	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-10	YES
	Claims		NO

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: JP 5-877 A

The present invention relates to a method for manufacturing a wood chip capsule, a method for controlling dissolving-out velocity of fertilizer, pesticide or plant growth regulator from the wood chip capsule, a wood chip capsule manufactured by the method, a method of using the wood chip capsule and an apparatus for manufacturing the wood chip capsule.

D1 discloses a method for producing ligneous manure and the constitution of the method as follows:

The predetermined amount of wood chips is loaded in a vessel. The mixed liquid of microorganisms (such as bacillus and clostridium) and nutritive substance for growing the microorganisms is introduced to the vessel. Then air is drawn from the insides of the wood chips by a pressure reducing machine and the mixed liquid is immersed in the wood chips by a pressurizing machine. After the wood chips are fermented, fertilizer component (nitrogen, phosphate and potassium), organic fertilizer or inorganic fertilizer is immersed in the fermented wood chips. Then the wood chips are dried to obtain ligneous manure.

(See supplemental box.)

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VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

Claims 1-9 are not fully supported by the description (PCT Art. 6) as follows:

All examples only describes the permeation of fertilizer and no example suggests the permeation of pesticide and plant growth regulator into a wood chip by pressurization or immersion in the description.

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Supplemental Box
(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of:

Box V

The subject matter of claims 1-3 in the present invention relates to a method for manufacturing a wood chip capsule, which comprises the steps of:
(a) manufacturing a wood chip, (b) drying naturally to 10 ~ 40% water content, (c) permeating more than one selected from the group consisting of fertilizer, pesticide and plant growth regulator into the wood chip by pressurizing or immersing.

1. Novelty

The subject matter of claims 1-3 differs in permeating fertilizer, pesticide or plant growth regulator in comparison with D1, which teaches a method for producing ligneous manure by immersing microorganisms into a wood chip. Therefore, The subject matter of claims 1-3 is considered to be novel under PCT Article 33(2).

Also, the subject matter of claims 4-7 (a method for controlling dissolving-out velocity of fertilizer, pesticide or plant growth regulator from the wood chip capsule), claim 8 (a wood chip capsule manufactured by the method), claim 9 (a using method for the wood chip capsule) and claim 10 (an apparatus for manufacturing the wood chip capsule) is considered to be novel under PCT Article 33(2).

2. Inventive step

But it is obvious for one skilled in the art to apply teaching of D1 (a method related to immersing fertilizer component (nitrogen, phosphate and potassium), organic fertilizer or inorganic fertilizer into a wood chip), thus, to arrive at the subject matter of claims 1-3 (a method related to permeating fertilizer, pesticide or plant growth regulator) without exercising inventive skill.

Therefore, The subject matter of claims 1-3 does not involve an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3). Similarly, the subject matter of claims 4-9 does not involve an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3).

3. Industrial applicability

Industrial applicability of the subject matter of claims 1-10 is beyond a doubt.